GOVERNEMNT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Industries, Infrastructure, Investment & Commerce Department – Mines & Geology – Sri N. Ranga Rao, the then Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Kurnool and DDM&G,(Retd.) Visakhapatnam– Departmental Proceedings under Rule-20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Article of Charges – Issued.

INDUSTRIES, INFRASTUCTURE, INVESTMENT & COMMERCE (VIGILANCE) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 322 Dated: 28-11-2019
Read :

From the Director General, ACB, AP,Hyderabad. C.No.10/REKUR/2013, Dated:27.02.2016.

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ORDER :

It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Sri N. Ranga Rao, the then Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Kurnool and DDM&G (Retd.), Visakhapatnam in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of article of charges and statement of imputations (Annexure-I & II). A list of witnesses by which, and a list of documents by which, the article of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-III to IV).

3. Sri N. Ranga Rao, the then Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Kurnool and DDM&G (Retd.), Visakhapatnam is directed to submit his written statement of defense within 10 days from the date of receipt of this order and also to state whether he desires to be heard in person.

4. Sri N. Ranga Rao, the then Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Kurnool and DDM&G (Retd.), Visakhapatnam is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those article of charges as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Sri N. Ranga Rao, the then Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Kurnool and DDM&G (Retd.), Visakhapatnam is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defense on or before the date specified in para 3 above further action will be taken based on the material available.

6. Attention of Sri N. Ranga Rao, the then Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Kurnool and DDM&G (Retd.), Visakhapatnam is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government Servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interest in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings it will be presumed that Sri N. Ranga Rao, the then Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Kurnool and DDM&G (Retd.), Visakhapatnam is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule-24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(P.T.O)

7. The receipt of the G.O. may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

K. RAMGOPAL
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(MINES)

To
Sri N.Ranga Rao, the then Dy. Director Mines & Geology, Kurnool and DDM&G(Retd.), Visakhapatnam (through Director Mines & Geology).
The Director of Mines & Geology, Ibrahimpatnam. Vijayawada (with request to serve & return served copy to III&C(Vigil) Dept.)
Copy to
The Director General, ACB, AP, ,2nd Floor, N.T.R. Admn. Block, PN Bus Station, Vijayawada - 520001
The APVC, 5th Block, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI N RANGA RAO. FORMERLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MINES & GEOLOGY), KURNOOL, NOW DY. DIRECTOR (MINES & GEOLOGY). VISAKHAPATNAM.

That Sri N. Ranga Rao joined the Mines and Geology Department as Asst. Geologist, on 31-01-1989 in the O/o AD, M&G, Vizianagaram. Later, he was promoted as Asst. Director, M&G on 16-05-1998 and posted in the O/o TRICOR, Hyderabad wherein he worked from 16-05-1998 to 30-11-1998 and then in the O/o Dy. Director, M&G (Vigilance), Warangal Region from 01-12-1998 to 28-03-2003 and later as AD, M&G, Vijayawada from 07-04-2003 to 15-10-2004. He was promoted as Dy. Director, M&G on 18-10-2004 and posted as DD, M&G, Kurnool from 01-09-2008 to 22-05-2013. While working as DD, M&G, Kurnool during the part of his tenure i.e., during 01-09- 2008 to 7/2012, he committed grave misconduct in as much as he failed to supervise properly his immediate sub-ordinate ie., AD, M&G, Kurnool who failed to control illegal mining of iron ore in connivance with illegal miners resulting in large scale illegal mining of iron ore that reportedly took place in the jurisdiction of AD, M&G, Kurnool in Kurnool district and thereby, he violated Rule 3(5) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus, Sri N. Ranga Rao formerly Deputy Director (Mines & Geology), Kurnool , by his above mentioned acts failed to take all possible steps to ensure the integrity and devotion to duty of his subordinate who is under his control and authority and thereby contravened Rule 3(5) of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

K. RAMGOPAL
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(MINES)

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATION OF MISCONDUCT OF MISBEHAVIOUR IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI N RANGA RAO, FORMERLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MINES & GEOLOGY). KURNOOL, NOW DY. DIRECTOR (MINES & GEOLOGY), VISAKHAPATNAM.

That Sri N. Ranga Rao joined the Mines and Geology Department as Asst. Geologist, on 3101-1989 in the O/o AD, M&G, Vizianagaram. Later, he was promoted as Asst. Director, M&G on 16-05-1998 and posted in the O/o TRICOR, Hyderabad wherein he worked from 16-05-1998 to 30-11-1998 and then in the O/o Dy. Director,
M&G (Vigilance), Warangal Region from 01-12-1998 to 28-03-2003 and later as AD, M&G, Vijayawada from 07-04-2003 to 15-10-2004. He was promoted as Dy. Director, M&G on 18-10-2004 and posted as DD, M&G, Kurnool from 01-09-2008 to 22-05- 2013. Sri N. Ranga Rao, attains the age of superannuation on 31-05-2018 and he is here-in-after referred to as Charged Officer/ Member of Service (M.O.S).

Whereas the A.P. Lokayuktha, Hyderabad has forwarded a letter vide Lr.in Dis.No. 012/B2/3036/2012, dt. 11.07.2012 to the Government and the Government in turn has addressed a letter vide Lr.No. 10592/M. 1 (1)/2012, dt. 7.11.2013 to the D.G., Anti-Corruption Bureau, Hyderabad by quoting the reference of letter of Lokayuktha and by enclosing the above intelligence report and petitions for enquiry and report on the alleged involvement of Government Officials in connection with the illegal mining and transportation of Iron ore and loss to the Government Exchequer. During the course of enquiry field inspections were conducted by a team of officers comprising officials of Anti-Corruption Bureau, Mines & Geology and Revenue Department in the village of Veldurthy Mandal and Bethamcherla Mandal on 14.2.2014 and 15.2.2014 respectively from 8 AM to 5 PM and the field inspection discloses that there are illegal mining pits all along the roads in the Government land / Patta land and endowment lands and that number of farmers have resorted to illegal mining of Iron ore in their own patta lands without valid permits from Mines & Geology Department. The enquiry further disclosed that the illegal mining took place in the said mandals and the VROs and villagers of R.S. Rangapuram, Kommuru, Kottala, Muddavaram, Veeraipally, Musalacheruvu, M.Pendekal, Marrikunta, Sitaramapuram, Ramallakota, Pullagummi, Papasanikottala, Kalugutla and Sidhanagattu informed that illegal mining of Iron ore are going on in the fields of jurisdiction villages in which some unknown persons involved in the mining though they are check posts near Gram Panchayat Complex Bethamcherla (v & M), Kolumulapalli Road check post, Balapuram check post near Balapuram village of Bethamcherla Mandal, R.S. Rangapuram check post near railway gate R.S. Rangapuram village, Bethamcherla mandal, Papasanikottala check post, Papasanikottala village, Bethamcherla mandal, Dhone check post, near Kotlavaripalli (Old Taluk police station) Dhone (v & m), Ramillakota check post, near Peddamma temple, Ramarlakota village, Veldurthy mandal.

That Sri N. Ranga Rao, while working as D.D (M&G), Kurnool during the period from 1.8.2009 to 16-07-2012 is concerned with the mining activity and the violations of various rules and regulations pertains to Mines & Minerals it is the responsibility of the MOS to supervise properly his immediate subordinate i.e. A.D (M & G), Kurnool who failed to control illegal mining of Iron ore in Kurnool district as the A.D (M & G), Kurnool in connivance with illegal miners resulting in large scale illegal mining of iron ore that reportedly took place in the jurisdiction of AD (M & G), Kurnool in Kurnool district.

Hence Sri N. Ranga Rao, formerly D.D, M&G, Kurnool, now DD, (M&G), Visakhapatnam committed grave misconduct in as much as he failed to supervise properly his immediate sub-ordinate ie., AD, M&G, Kurnool who failed to control illegal mining of iron ore in connivance with illegal miners resulting in large scale illegal mining of iron ore that reportedly took place in the jurisdiction of AD, M&G, Kurnool in Kurnool district and thereby, he violated Rule 3(5) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Thus, Sri N. Ranga Rao, formerly D.D, M&G, Kurnool, now DD, (M&G), Visakhapatnam by his above mentioned acts, has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a public servant and thereby, he violated Rule 3(5) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and provisions of G.O.Ms.No. 381, GA (Ser.C) Dept, dt. 18-12-2003.

The Charged Officer/ Members of Service (MOS) has, therefore, rendered himself liable for regular Departmental action for major penalty.

K. RAMGOPAL
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(MINES)

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF WITNESSES IN SUPPORT OF CHARGES PROPOSED TO BESUSTAINED:-

1. Sri Apathy Ramesh Chowdary, Age 26 years S/o A. Govindu Chowdary, **VRO, R.S. Rangapuram-I** (including hamlet village ie., Kommuru Kottala) R/o H.No. 10-147, Ramakrishnapuram village, Banganapalli Mandal, Kurnool District.
2. Sri Gudipadu Venkata Rao, Age.51 years S/o G.V. Ramana, **VRO, Veeraipalli Village H/o Muddavaram (including hamlet villages namely Musalai Cheruvu and Veeraipally)** Bethamcherla Mandal, Kurnool district R/0 H.No.78/4-19-15 Ne1 Krishna Nagar, Kurnool town and N/o Amakathadu (V), Krishnagiri Mandal, Kurnool district.
3. Sri Meedivemula Maddilety Swamy, Age: **33** years S/o M. Sanjanna, **VRO of M.Pendekallu Village (including hamlet villages namely Marrikunta, Venkatagiri and Vempally)** R/o H.No.3/168, Muddavaram (V), Bethamcherla (M), Kurnool district.
4. Sri Talari Venkateswarlu, Age.**42** years S/o Talari Nadipi Venkateswarlu, **VRO of Seetharamapuram Village,** R/o H.No.**10-43,** S.Valasala Village, Dhone Mandal, Kurnool district.
5. Sri Kothuru Moulali, Age.**43** years S/o K. Nabi Saheb, **VRO of Ramallakota (V),** Veldurthy Mandal, R/o H.No.3-98, Ramallakota (V), Veldurthy (M), Kurnool district.
6. Sri Yelkuri Yellakrishna, Age.38 years S/o Y. Chinna Ramudu, **VRO of Pullagummi (V),** Veldurthy (M) R/o H.No.2-28, Veldurthy (V) & (M), Kurnool district.
7. Sri Gudise Ramagopal, Age:49 years S/o G. Maddilety, **VRO, Kolumula Palle(V) (Including hamlet villages namely Balapalapalli, Papasani Kottala)** Bethamcherla (M), R/o 1-86, Thavisikonda (V), Bethamcherla (M), Kurnool district.
8. Sri Avula Maddaiah, Age.38 years S/o Late A. Sanjanna, **VRO, Kalugotla-ll Village (including hamlet villages namely Krishnapuram and Siddanagattu)** R/o H.No.2- 28, Somayajula Palli (V), Orvakal (M), Kurnool district.
9. The Asst. Director, Mines and Geology, Kurnool.
10. The Deputy Director, Mines & Geology, Kurnool.
11. The Director, Mines & Geology and Secretary to the Govt(Mines & Geology, food processing), Industries and Commerce Department, 8th floor, C-Block, BRKR Bhavan, Hyderabad.
12. Sri M.V. Krishna Reddy, Inspector, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kurnool Range, Kurnool.
13. Sri M. Mahaboob Basha, Deputy Supdt. of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kurnool Range, Kurnool.

K. RAMGOPAL
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(MINES)

ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CHARGES PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED:-

1) **Lr. No. 2707/E/2012 dt. 20-01-2014 of the Deputy Director. Mines & Geology. Kurnool:** regarding furnishing of information of the service particulars and job chart of Sri A. Chandramouli, presently working as Asst. Director, M&G, Chittoor.

2) **Lr. No. 9302/ACB/2013. Dated: 18-12-2013 of the Assistant Director. Mines and Geology, Kurnool:** regarding information on (1) processing of applications for grant of Prospecting Licences & Mining Leases along extracts of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (Chapter.III & IV), extract of G.O.Ms.No.2, Revnue (Assignment.!) Dept. dt.02-01- 2013, extract of G.O.Ms.No.181, Industries and Commerce Dept, dt.28-05-1998 and on iron ore transportation and also on check posts functioning in the Kurnool District (2) steps taken to curb illegal mining (3) details of check posts (4) details of quantity of iron ore loads transported, (5) details of cases booked by M&G department and correspondence made with Revenue and Police Departments for controlling illegal mining (6) details of officers and staff worked M&G department and (7) No.of licenses issued for mining and transportation of iron ore.

3) Lr. RC E7 1604/2012 dt.21-03-2014 of the Collector and District Magistrate, Kurnool: regarding information of available Xerox copies of documents pertaining to illegal mining and transportation of iron ore in Kurnool district.

4) **Lr. No. 9302/ACB/2013. Dated: 06-06-2015 of the Assistant Director. Mines and Geology, Kurnool.** regarding area of extent of illegal mining and regarding supervisory memos from superior officers.

5) **Lr. No. 9302/ACB/2013, Dated: 08-06-2015 of the Assistant Director, Mines and Geology, Kurnool**: **regarding extent of illegal mining of iron ore.**

6) Field inspection observation proceedings dt. 14-02-2014 from 8.00 hours to 17.00 hours conducted in the illegal mining prone areas in the fields of Ramallakota village and surrounding village areas of Veldurty Mandal by the officers of ACB, M&G and Revenue departments.

7) Field inspection observation proceedings dt. 15-02-2014 from 8.00 hours to 17.00 hours conducted in the illegal mining prone areas in the fields of R.S. Rangapuram village and surrounding village areas of Bethamcharla Mandal by the officers of ACB, M & G and Revenue departments.

K. RAMGOPAL
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(MINES)